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**STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**DPS ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF  
WIND DEMONSTRATION FUNDING**

Montpelier, VT – Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS), Energy Efficiency Director Robert Ide announced today that the DPS will provide over \$300,000 to support Vermont wind demonstrations. Grants will be provided to cover a portion of the cost of installing small-scale net-metered wind systems on farms, schools, and other public areas. These funds are a portion of \$1.5 million secured by Senator James Jeffords over a three-year period for the DPS Wind Development Program. The funds have been allocated by the US Department of Energy in three phases, beginning in 2002.

"There are several turbines up and running already, at schools and farms, generating clean electricity and fitting in well with Vermont's working landscape," said Senator Jeffords. "There is also an important educational component to these systems, and so I hope eligible applicants with good wind locations take advantage of this great opportunity."

In Phase 1 of this program DPS supported the development of demonstration wind sites, developed educational programs, and addressed permitting and regulatory issues. In Phase 2 DPS conducted further wind evaluation, design, and development analysis; supported the installation of several additional wind turbines to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of wind energy; and completed mapping for potential wind sites. Under Phase 3 DPS is focusing on the installation of wind turbines throughout the state and educating the public on the benefits of wind energy.

Vermont has a long history of wind energy use from the early days when windmills were used to pump water on farms to the development of the world's first large-scale wind turbine on Grandpa's Knob in 1941. Over the last several years the DPS, along with regional and national partners, have been evaluating opportunities and constraints for additional wind energy in Vermont. The DPS has also utilized a dispute resolution process to address siting concerns related to the planning process.

"Although increased wind development in Vermont has caused some controversy regarding the potential siting of wind turbines on ridgelines, I believe with greater familiarity and understanding, people will be able to make more informed decisions about wind power on a commercial scale," said Ide.

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